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(China asks League of Nations to Apply Article
XVII-II September 1938)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHINESE DELEGATION

Geneva, September 11, 1938

On September 12th, 1937, precisely a year ago, I had the honour in the name of the Chinese Government to inform you of the fact of Japan's armed invasion of China and to invoke Articles 10, 11 and 17 of the Covenant in order that the Council might forthwith take effective action to deal with the grave situation thus created by the Japanese aggression. The League of Nations through its different organs, namely, the Assembly, the Council and the Advisory Committee on the Far Eastern situation has since adopted a number of resolutions, all of which in their principal provisions, however, remain unexecuted or ineffective.

But the hostilities which Japan started against China fourteen months ago have not only seen no abatement but, on the contrary, are being pursued on an ever extending scale and with increased intensity and ruthlessness. It is the firm conviction of the Chinese Government that in the interest of the League itself and the general cause of peace, as well as in justice to China, the provisions of Article 17 of the Covenant should be applied to the present situation in the Far East without further delay.

By instructions of my Government I have the honour, therefore, to request the Council to give immediate effect to Article 17 of the Covenant, which the Council has hitherto failed to apply but which, in the opinion of the Chinese Government, provides the most relevant procedure for effective action by the League in the present case.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) V. K. WELLINGTON KOO

First Delegate of China